I.   Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims shall replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the

application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, further comprising modifying an
amount of said plurality of computing resources of said distributed computing system based on
consideration of said one or more reservations.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said modifying comprises adding a
computing resource while said distributed computing system is in use.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, further comprising monitoring a usage
level for at least a portion of said computing resources of said distributed computing system.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising providing data descriptive of said
usage level.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said providing data descriptive of said usage
level is performed in real time.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising using a graphical user interface to
display said data descriptive of said usage level.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein said usage level comprises a
present usage of said plurality of computing resources.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein said usage level comprises a

historical usage of said plurality of computing resources.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, further comprising monitoring an allocation status for at least a portion of said computing resources of said distributed computing system.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising providing data descriptive of said allocation status.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said providing data descriptive of said allocation status is performed in real time.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising using a graphical user interface to display said data descriptive of said allocation status.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said allocation status comprises a present allocation of said plurality of computing resources.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said allocation status comprises a historical allocation of said plurality of computing resources.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, further comprising monitoring an inventory of computing resources of said distributed computing system.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising providing data descriptive of said inventory.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said providing data descriptive of said inventory is performed in real time.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising using a graphical user interface to

display said data descriptive of said inventory.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said inventory comprises a present inventory of said plurality of computing resources.

21. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said inventory comprises a historical inventory of said plurality of computing resources.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein said plurality of computing resources comprises a processing device.

23-25. (Cancelled).

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, further comprising charging a user for canceling a reservation.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein said plurality of computing resources comprises a memory device.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein said plurality of computing resources further comprises a processing device.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, further comprising billing a user of said computing resources.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein said billing comprises determining whether a first price or a second price is to be billed.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein said first price comprises a peak price.

32. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein said first price comprises an off-peak price.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein said second price comprises a peak price.

34. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein said first price is billed for said computing resources allocated in response to said reservation and said second price is billed for computing resources allocated in response to said request, wherein said first price is higher than said second price.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein said one or more requests each comprise a priority indication, and wherein said allocation criteria considers said priority indication of each said request.

36. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein said allocation criteria comprises a calculation of a weighted average based at least in part on said priority indications.

37. (Original) The method of claim 35, further comprising billing a user of said computing resources such that a cost varies in accordance with said priority indication.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein said allocation criteria comprises an equal division of said unallocated computing resources between a plurality of users that have made a request.

39. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method, comprising:
receiving one or more reservations for use of at least a first subset of a plurality of computing resources of a distributed computing system, wherein each of said one or more reservations specifies a period of time for use of at least one computing resource and has a corresponding first monetary cost to a user of said computing resource specified in said reservation, each of said one or more reservations specifies an amount for use of a first and second type of processing device in a normalized unit of processing capability, and said plurality of computing resources comprises:

said first type of processing device having a first processing capability; and

said second type of processing device having a second processing capability,
wherein said first and second processing capabilities are different;

allocating said first subset of said computing resources for use in accordance with said
one or more reservations;

charging said user said first monetary cost for use of said computing resources;

receiving one or more requests for use of at least a second subset of said plurality of
computing resources of said distributed computing system, wherein each of said one or more
requests specifies a period of time for use of at least one computing resource and has a
corresponding second monetary cost to a user of said computing resource specified in said
request;

determining whether a sufficient amount of one or more unallocated computing resources
are available to fulfill all of said one or more requests, wherein said one or more unallocated
computing resources comprises said computing resources of said distributed computing system
that are not allocated in accordance with said one or more reservations and each of said one or
more requests comprises an expression of said first and second types of processing device in a
normalized unit of processing capability;

responsive to said sufficient amount of said unallocated computing resources being
available, temporarily allocating said unallocated computing resources in accordance with said
one or more
requests; and

responsive to said sufficient amount of said unallocated computing resources not being
available, temporarily allocating said unallocated computing resources in accordance with an
allocation
criteria.

40. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein said allocation criteria comprises fulfilling
said requests beginning with said request comprising a highest bid indication and continuing in
descending order of requests comprising said bid indications of lesser values until all of said
unallocated resources have been allocated.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein said unallocated computing

resources are allocated dynamically.

42. (Original) The method of claim 41, further comprising re-allocating said unallocated computing resources dynamically.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein said unallocated computing resources are allocated in real time in response to receiving said one or more requests.

44-45. (Cancelled).

46. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 74, wherein said computing device comprises a server.

47. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 74, wherein said computing device comprises at least two servers, wherein each server is in a different geographic location.

48. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 74, further comprising a graphical user interface configured to display data descriptive of a usage level for at least a portion of said plurality of computing resources of said distributed computing system.

49. (Original) The system of claim 48, wherein said computing device is further configured to provide data descriptive of said usage level in real time.

50. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 74, further comprising a graphical user interface configured to display data descriptive of an allocation status for at least a portion of said computing resources of said distributed computing system.

51. (Original) The system of claim 50, wherein said computing device is further configured to provide data descriptive of said allocation status in real time.

52. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 74, further comprising a graphical user

interface configured to display data descriptive of an inventory of computing resources of said distributed computing system.

53. (Original) The system of claim 52, wherein said computing device is further configured to provide data descriptive of said inventory in real time.

54. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 74, wherein said computing device is further configured to generate a billing record based on a usage level of said plurality of computing resource.

55. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 74, further comprising a persistent data storage queue in communication with said computing resources, and wherein a minimum availability of said distributed computing system is defined by an availability of said persistent data storage queue.

56. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 74, wherein said plurality of computing resources comprises a processing device.

57-59. (Cancelled).

60. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 74, wherein said computing device is further configured to charge a user for canceling a reservation.

61. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 74, wherein said plurality of computing resources comprises a memory device.

62. (Original) The system of claim 61, wherein said plurality of computing resources further comprises a processing device.

63. (Cancelled)

64. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 74, wherein said computing device is further

configured to bill a user of said computing resources.

65. (Original) The system of claim 64, wherein said computing device is further configured to determine whether a first price or a second price is to be billed.

66. (Original) The system of claim 65, wherein said first price comprises a peak price.

67. (Original) The system of claim 65, wherein said first price comprises an off-peak price.

68. (Original) The system of claim 67, wherein said second price comprises a peak price.

69. (Original) The system of claim 65, wherein said first price is billed for said computing resources allocated in response to said reservation and said second price is billed for computing resources allocated in response to said request, wherein said first price is higher than said second price.

70. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 74, wherein said one or more requests each comprise a priority indication, and wherein said allocation criteria considers said priority indication of each said request.

71. (Original) The system of claim 70, wherein said allocation criteria comprises a calculation of a weighted average based at least in part on said priority indications.

72. (Original) The system of claim 70, wherein said computing device is further configured to bill a user of said computing resources such that a cost varies in accordance with said priority indication.

73. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 74, wherein said allocation criteria comprises an equal division of said unallocated computing resources between a plurality of users that have made a request.

74. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a distributed computing system comprising a plurality of computing resources, wherein said plurality of computing resources comprises:

a first type of processing device having a first processing capability; and

a second type of processing device having a second processing capability, and wherein said first and second processing capabilities are different; and

a computing device configured to:

receive one or more reservations for use of at least a first subset of said plurality of computing resources, wherein each of said one or more reservations specifies a period of time for use of at least one computing resource and has a corresponding first monetary cost to a user of said computing resources specified in said reservation and each of said one or more reservations specifies an amount for use of said first and second types of processing device in a normalized unit of processing capability;

allocate said first subset of said computing resources for use in accordance with said one or more reservations;

charge said user said first monetary cost for use of said computing resources;

receive one or more requests for use of at least a second subset of said plurality of computing resources of said distributed computing system, wherein each of said one or more requests specifies a period of time for use of at least one computing resource, comprises an expression of said first and second types of processing device in a normalized unit of processing capability, and has a corresponding second monetary cost to a user of said computing resource specified in said request;

determine whether a sufficient amount of one or more unallocated computing resources are available to fulfill all of said one or more requests, wherein said one or more unallocated computing resources comprises said computing resources of said distributed computing system that are not allocated in accordance with said one or more reservations;

responsive to said sufficient amount of said unallocated computing resources being available, temporarily allocate said unallocated computing resources in accordance with said one or

more requests; and

responsive to said sufficient amount of said unallocated computing resources not

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being available, <u>temporarily</u> allocate said unallocated computing resources in accordance with an allocation

criteria.

75. (Original) The system of claim 74, wherein said allocation criteria comprises fulfilling said requests beginning with said request comprising a highest bid indication and continuing in descending order of requests comprising said bid indications of lesser values until all of said unallocated resources have been allocated.

76. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 74, wherein said computing device is further configured to dynamically allocate said unallocated computing resources.

77. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 74, wherein said computing device is further configured to allocate said unallocated computing resources in real time in response to receiving said one or more requests.

78. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein said one or more requests each comprise a monetary bid indication, and wherein said allocation criteria considers said monetary bid indication of each said request.

79. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 74, wherein said one or more requests each comprise a monetary bid indication, and wherein said allocation criteria considers said monetary bid indication of each said request.